

Proposed Submission Adur Local Plan (2016)

Addendum to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Draft Adur Local Plan 2012

March 2016

1. Introduction

This document is an addendum to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) that accompanied the Draft Adur Local Plan consultation in 2012, and seeks to explain why it has not been necessary to update the HRA undertaken in 2012 and why the Proposed Submission Adur Local Plan (2016) should be screened out of the requirement for an Appropriate Assessment.

2. Conclusions of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Draft Adur Local Plan 2012

The HRA of the Draft Adur Local Plan 2012 assessed, amongst other things, the two potential housing targets included in the Draft Plan. These were as follows:

Option A – 1,785 dwellings (plus 1050 dwellings at Shoreham Harbour)

Option B – 2,635 dwellings (plus 1050 dwellings at Shoreham Harbour)

It also assessed the employment allocations at Shoreham Airport, Shoreham Harbour and New Monks Farm which, as per the Draft Local Plan 2012, would provide 66,000sqm of total employment floorspace.

The HRA concluded that regardless of whether Option A or Option B was chosen, the Draft Local Plan 2012 as a whole could be screened out entirely with regard to the three European sites within the scope of this appraisal (Arun Valley SPA, SAC and Ramsar, Lewes Downs SAC and Castle Hill SAC). This is because the European sites within the scope of the appraisal are significant distances away with no clear pathways of impact and would be unaffected by such development.

3. Proposed Submission Adur Local Plan (2016)

Since the Draft Local Plan 2012 was produced, the housing and employment amounts have been refined. The Proposed Submission Adur Local Plan proposes the following amounts of housing:

3,609 new dwellings (including 1100 new homes at Shoreham Harbour)

The amount of new dwellings proposed in the Adur Local Plan (2016) is still less than the amount of dwellings considered under Option B in the 2012 Draft Plan consultation and accompanying HRA. Although the proposed number of dwellings at Shoreham Harbour has increased by 50, the 2012 HRA Screening document stated that Shoreham Harbour is a significant distance from any European designated sites and therefore no pathways of impact are likely to occur. As such, it concluded that the Shoreham Harbour policy could be screened out of the requirement for an 'Appropriate Assessment'. 50 additional dwellings are highly unlikely to change this conclusion and it is therefore considered that the Plan can still be screened out.

The Proposed Submission Adur Local Plan (2016) also proposes a total of 41,000sqm of employment-generating floorspace at Shoreham Airport (15,000sqm), New Monks Farm (10,000sqm) and Shoreham Harbour (16,000sqm). This is notably less than the amount of 66,000sqm proposed in the 2012 Draft Adur Local Plan.

It should also be noted that no additional strategic allocations have been included in the Plan since the 2012 consultation.

4. Conclusions

Given that there have been no significant changes to the Plan or increases in the quantum of development proposed (as explained above), it is considered that there is no need to update the HRA Screening report undertaken in 2012 and that the Proposed Submission Adur Local Plan can still be screened out of the requirement for an 'Appropriate Assessment'.